

Identification of Romantic characteristics in poetry

Directions:

- View the online interactive "Introduction to Romanticism" posted on the Frankenstein resources wiki.
- Read the poem below.
- Mark up the poem with notes that state your personal reactions to the poem.
- Answer questions 1-4.

THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
The Sea that bares her bosom to the moon; 5
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not.--Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn; 10
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

William Wordsworth, 1803

1. Whom is the speaker addressing in lines 1-3? What does he say it has done?
2. In line eight the speaker states that "we are out of tune". What is it that "we are out of tune" with?
3. Identify and explain how diction establishes two different tones in this poem.
4. Briefly summarize this poem.

Romanticism in Poetry

Use the following chart to help you identify examples from the poem and explain how they reflect a characteristic of Romanticism.

Romantic Characteristic	Quotation from the poem (include line #s)	How does the quotation reflect the Romantic characteristic?
Interest in the common man and childhood.		
Strong senses, emotions, and feelings.		
Awe of nature		
Celebration of the individual.		
Importance of imagination.		